

Brian E. JOSEPH  
Application No.: 10/693,458  
Reply to Notice dated: March 15, 2004

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

Please **AMEND** claims 16 and 19 as shown below.

Please **ADD** claim 20.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-15. (Cancelled)

16. (Currently Amended) A thermal protection system, comprising:  
an insulating core comprising carbon foam produced directly from particulate coal  
having a thermal conductivity below about 1 W/m °K ~~and a density ranging from~~  
~~about 0.1 to about 0.8 g/cm³~~.

17. (Previously Presented) The thermal protection system of claim 16, wherein  
the carbon foam is a coal-based cellular foam.

18. (Cancelled) The thermal protection system of claim 16, wherein the carbon  
foam has a density ranging from about 0.1 to about 0.8 g/cm³.

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19. (Currently Amended) A thermal protection system, comprising:  
an insulating core comprising carbon foam produced directly from particulate coal  
and having a density ranging from about 0.1 to about 0.8 g/cm<sup>3</sup>.
20. (New) The thermal protection system of claim 16, wherein the carbon foam has a  
density ranging from about 0.1 to about 0.8 g/cm<sup>3</sup>.